

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

FOUR NEW NEOTROPICAL RODENTS.

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Among the mammals from Middle and South America in the collection of the United States National Museum are specimens of four hitherto undescribed rodents.

***Proechimys rubellus* sp. nov.**

Type from Angostura Valley, Costa Rica. Adult [♂]; collected by José C. Zeledón. U. S. National Museum No. $\frac{12901}{38587}$, skin and skull.

Characters.—Like *Proechimys centralis* and *P. c. chiriquinus*, but general coloration much more reddish, less dusky, with less mixture of grayish- and yellowish-buff and more bright hazel on cheeks and sides, and with little blackish suffusion in color of upperparts. Tail shorter. Skull as in *Proechimys centralis*.

Measurements of type (from dry skin).—Head and body, 250 mm.; tail, 130; hind foot, .55. Skull and teeth: Greatest length of skull, 64.7; condylobasal length, 52.3; nasals, 24.3; upper tooth row, alveoli, 9.2; mandible, 33.6; mandibular tooth row, 9.7.

Remarks.—While Nicaraguan specimens of *Proechimys centralis centralis* and topotypes of *Proechimys centralis chiriquinus* scarcely differ from each other in color, the Angostura Valley skins are sharply differentiated from each by their bright reddish-brown coloration. The superficial resemblance to *Proechimys minckleyi* of Colombia is pronounced, but the new form is even more reddish in color and has a much shorter tail. Three specimens from the type locality are in the collection.

***Myocastor coypus santacruzæ* subsp. nov.**

Type from north bank of Rio Salado, near Los Palmares, Santa Cruz, Argentina. Adult [♂]; collected by W. Frakes. U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection) No. 96513, skin and skull.

Characters.—Larger and lighter colored than *Myocastor coypus coypus* of Chile; like *Myocastor bonariensis* (Geoffroy) from the Parana River, but lighter and more reddish brown, the long overlying hairs less buffy,

more ochraceous. Skull like that of *bonariensis*, but larger, with posterior border of palate, as in true *coypus*, sharply \wedge -shape [in *bonariensis* broadly rounded concave, with no sharp angle]. Upper molariform teeth increasing conspicuously in size from first backward, the last with nearly twice the crown area of first [in *coypus* and *bonariensis* in same state of wear the cheek teeth are much more uniform in size].

Measurements of type (from dry skin).—Head and body, 740 mm.; tail, 415; hind foot, with claws, 137. Skull: Greatest length, 122.5; condylo-basal length, 113; zygomatic breadth, 74.9; length of nasals, 46.8; least interorbital breadth, 31.6; mandible, 108.5. Teeth: Upper molar-premolar row, alveoli, 29.8; $pm-m^1$, 11.8; m^2-m^3 , 18; lower tooth row, alveoli, 33.9; $pm-m_1$, 13.5; m_2-m_3 , 20.4.

Remarks.—Three races of *Myocastor coypus* are represented in the National Museum collections: *coypus* from Chile and Straits of Magellan, (Port Churrueca; Borja Bay); *bonariensis* from Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, and Paraguay, Parana River; and *santaacruzæ* from Rio Negros and Rio Salado, Patagonia.

Lagostomus maximus petilidens subsp. nov.

Type from 8 miles north of Carmen de Patagones, Argentina. Adult [σ] skull (basal suture entirely closed); collected by Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, 1910. U. S. National Museum No. 172,801.

Characters.—Skull of same essential size as in *Lagostomus maximus maximus*, but with the incisors very much smaller, slender and weak; cheek teeth averaging smaller; audital bullæ short and rounded; presphenoid much narrower and more tapering; opening of posterior nares much reduced, the post palatal space more sharply \wedge -shape, less rounded; angle of jaw much smaller, lighter and more sharply tapering.

Measurements of type skull and teeth.—Greatest length of skull, 126 mm.; condylo-basal length, 117; zygomatic breadth, 75.4; length of nasals, 52.9; length of mandible, to angle, 100.3; upper cheek teeth, alveoli, 27.2; mandibular tooth row, 27.8; total breadth of upper incisors at middle, 11.1 (13.8)*; depth of incisor, 5.5 (6.9).

Remarks.—This form is based on a series of fifty skulls collected by Doctor Hrdlička at various points from Necochea south to Rio Negro. Compared with skulls of true *Lagostomus maximus* from Buenos Aires, San Luis, and southern Paraguay, the conspicuously smaller, more slender, incisor teeth at once distinguish the southern form.

Hydrochærus hydrochæris notialis subsp. nov.

Type from Paraguay. Old adult σ , skin and skeleton, U. S. National Museum No. 154,186. Received at National Zoological Park January 6, 1909, from N. Ruffin; died June 25, 1909.

* Measurements in parentheses from skull of an adult male *Lagostomus maximus maximus* from Buenos Aires.

Characters.—Skull less heavily built than in *Hydrochærus hydrochæris hydrochæris* from Surinam; maxillary arm of zygoma much more slender, less massive; occiput shortened, actually and relatively much less elongated; presphenoid narrow and tapering anteriorly; lachrymal bone, lateral aspect, much higher than wide, extending far downward to sharp point [in *hydrochæris* wider than high and not sharply pointed on lower side]; jaw much lighter, lower posteriorly, and with inferior surface of angle much flattened; symphysis shorter; superior notch long and shallow [in *hydrochæris* shorter, much deeper, and more rounded]. Upper incisors smaller than in *hydrochæris*; cheek teeth smaller, the last upper molar especially much narrower; m^3 with double anterior lobe, ten transverse enamel plates [in *hydrochæris* nine] and posterior hooked lobe.

Measurements of type skull, compared with a very slightly older skull from Surinam (U. S. N. M. 13007), measurements of latter in parentheses: Greatest length, 237 (252); condylobasal length, 225 (228); zygomatic breadth, 126 (143); palatal length, 145 (150); coronal suture to occipital crest, 57 (69); height of lachrymal, 37.5 (21). Teeth: Single upper incisor at middle, 8.8 x 11.6 (9.7 x 12.2); maxillary tooth row, alveoli, 75.8 (79.8); greatest breadth of m^3 , 13.6 (16).

Remarks.—This form is based on four specimens from Paraguay, all of which agree in the presence of the characters given above to distinguish the southern animal from the capybara of Surinam. The differences between skulls from the two regions are so pronounced, that were it not for two skulls in the collection from Brazil, which certainly show some intermediate characters, the specific distinctness of the two forms would never be questioned.